

What is claimed is:

1. A method for applying a cardiac support device to a heart of a mammal; the method comprising:
  - (a) surgically accessing a heart;
  - (b) providing a cardiac support device including a jacket; and
  - (c) positioning the jacket around at least a portion of the heart by applying a pulling force to the jacket.
2. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said step of positioning includes pulling the jacket onto the heart from a position superior to the heart.
3. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said step of positioning includes:
    - (i) pulling in a first direction a first portion of the jacket onto the heart; and then
    - (ii) pulling in a second direction a second portion of the jacket onto the heart.
4. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said step of surgically accessing a heart includes surgically inserting a delivery device into a thorax of the mammal; the delivery device including the cardiac support device; and
  - (b) said step of positioning includes surgically inserting a tool into the thorax in a position superior to the delivery device.
5. A method according to claim 4 wherein:
  - (a) said step of positioning includes using the tool to pull the jacket onto the heart.

6. A method according to claim 5 wherein:
  - (a) said step of positioning includes:
    - (i) using the tool to pull in a first direction a first portion of the jacket onto the heart; and then
    - (ii) using the tool to pull in a second direction a second portion of the jacket onto the heart.
7. A method according to claim 6 wherein:
  - (a) said step of using the tool to pull in a second direction includes:
    - (i) after using the tool to pull in a first direction a first portion of the jacket onto the heart, removing the tool from the thorax and surgically inserting the tool into another location in the thorax in a position superior to the delivery device.
8. A method according to claim 7 wherein:
  - (a) said step of using the tool to pull in a first direction includes grasping a first strand secured to the jacket; and
  - (b) said step of using the tool to pull in a second direction includes grasping a second strand secured to the jacket.
9. A method according to claim 1 wherein:
  - (a) said step of surgically accessing a heart includes surgically inserting a delivery device into a thorax of the mammal; the delivery device including the jacket;
    - (i) the jacket comprising a continuous flexible mesh net with a base edge, an opposite apex, first and second lateral edges extending from the base edge, and an open slot between the first and second lateral edges; the slot extending from the base edge and terminating at the apex;
    - (ii) the jacket further including:

- (A) a first anterior strand secured to the base edge adjacent to first lateral edge;
    - (B) a second anterior strand secured to the base edge adjacent to the second lateral edge;
    - (C) a first posterior strand secured to the base edge and positioned closer to the first anterior strand than to the second anterior strand; and
    - (D) a second posterior strand secured to the base edge and positioned closer to the second anterior strand than to the first anterior strand; and
  - (b) said step of positioning the jacket around at least a portion of the heart includes pulling each of the first anterior, second anterior, first posterior, and second posterior strands to pull the jacket around the heart.
10. A method according to claim 9 wherein:
- (a) said step of positioning the jacket around at least a portion of the heart includes:
    - (i) from a first position superior to the heart, pulling the first posterior strand and the second anterior strand;
      - (A) the first posterior strand being pulled under the heart and the second anterior strand being pulled over the heart; and
    - (ii) from a second position superior to the heart and lateral to the first position, pulling the second posterior strand and the first anterior strand;
      - (A) the second posterior strand being pulled under the heart and the first anterior strand being pulled over the heart.
11. A method according to claim 10 wherein:
- (a) before pulling the first posterior strand and the second anterior strand, surgically inserting a tool through a left intercostal region to the first

- position and using the tool to pull, individually, the first posterior strand and the second anterior strand; and
- (b) before pulling the second posterior strand and the first anterior strand, surgically inserting the tool through a right intercostal region to the second position and using the tool to pull, individually, the second posterior strand and the first anterior strand.
12. A method according to claim 11 wherein:
- (a) said step of surgically inserting a delivery device into a thorax includes inserting the delivery device into the thorax to a position inferior to an apex of the heart.
13. A method according to claim 12 further including:
- (a) after pulling the first posterior strand, second anterior strand, second posterior strand, and first anterior strand, advancing the delivery device into the thorax to a position under the heart.
14. A method according to claim 13 wherein:
- (a) the jacket further includes an apex strand secured to the apex of the jacket; and
- (b) after advancing the delivery device, the step of positioning the jacket includes pulling the first posterior strand, second posterior strand, and apex strand.
15. A method according to claim 14 further including:
- (a) after the step of advancing the delivery device and pulling the first posterior strand, second posterior strand, and apex strand, removing the delivery device from the thorax.
16. A method according to claim 15 wherein:

- (a) after removing the delivery device from the thorax, the step of positioning the jacket includes:
    - (i) pulling the first anterior strand to pull the first lateral edge and a portion of the jacket over the heart, and
    - (ii) pulling the second anterior strand to pull the second lateral edge of the jacket over the heart and adjacent to the first lateral edge.
  
- 17. A method according to claim 16 further including:
  - (a) after said step of positioning, closing the slot by securing the first lateral edge to the second lateral edge.
  
- 18. A method according to claim 9 wherein:
  - (a) said step of surgically accessing a heart includes performing an intercostal incision and inserting a delivery device;
    - (i) the delivery device including a tube with an interior, an open insertion end, and an opposite end;
      - (A) the tube including a plurality of notches at the insertion end; each of the first anterior strand, second anterior strand, first posterior strand, and second posterior strand being separately held within a respective one of the notches;
      - (B) the jacket being held within the interior of the tube.
  
- 19. A device for placing a cardiac support jacket onto a heart; the device comprising:
  - (a) a first tubular wall having an open insertion end, an opposite end, and an internal surface;
    - (i) the insertion end defining a plurality of slots; and
  - (b) a second tubular wall oriented within the first tubular wall and against the first tubular wall internal surface; the second tubular wall having:
    - (i) first and second opposite ends;
    - (ii) a plurality of grooves extending at least partially between the first and second ends;

- (iii) an open interior volume constructed and arranged to hold a cardiac support jacket.
- 20. A device according to claim 19 wherein:
  - (a) said insertion end defines an oblique opening relative to the first tubular wall; the oblique opening including an elongate face;
    - (i) said plurality of slots being located in the elongate face;
  - (b) said plurality of grooves extend completely between the first and second ends of the second tubular wall; and
  - (c) there is an equal number of slots as grooves.
- 21. A device for placing a cardiac support jacket onto a heart; the device comprising:
  - (a) a tubular wall having an open insertion end, an opposite end, an internal surface, and an open interior volume;
    - (i) a plurality of lumens extending at least partially between the insertion end and the opposite end, each lumen of the plurality of lumens defining a lumen open volume;
    - (ii) the insertion end defining a plurality of notches; each notch of the plurality of notches being in the internal surface of the tubular wall and in communication with a respective lumen open volume; and
    - (iii) the open interior volume constructed and arranged to hold a cardiac support jacket.
- 22. A device according to claim 21 wherein:
  - (a) said insertion end defines an oblique opening including an elongate face;
    - (i) said plurality of notches being located in the elongate face;
  - (b) each lumen of said plurality of lumens extends completely between the insertion end and the opposite end; and
  - (c) there is an equal number of notches and lumens.
- 23. A device according to claim 22 further comprising:

- (a) an end cap covering the opposite end; the endcap including a strand-holding groove and a holding slot there within.

24. A device according to claim 21 wherein:

- (a) said tubular wall is constructed of a material having a flexibility that is greater than a flexibility of a human rib.